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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Philippines*: draft resolution

United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and subsequently endorsed and reaffirmed by the General Assembly,

Reaffirming also its resolution 46/151, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, having as its priority objectives the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa" 2/ which,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ A/50/125-E/1995/19, annex.

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inter alia, concludes that the response of organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in supporting the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development has not matched the expectations and needs of many developing countries and makes a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa, and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report, 3/ each submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in a note by the Secretary-General,

Recognizing the crucial significance of science and technology, including the related information technologies for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology and the promotion of endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the process of growth and development,

Recognizing also that the fundamental objective of science and technology to meet basic needs should be to create conditions that increase the ability of the poor to gain access to, comprehend and use knowledge and technology creatively in order to satisfy their basic needs,

Noting the efforts being undertaken by African leaders within the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa, 1995-2005,

Taking note of the Cairo Agenda for Action, adopted by the Summit of the Heads of States and Governments on 28 June 1995,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa", 2/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon; 3/

2. Requests the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to update the eight operational guidelines adopted in 1983 in order to provide a more comprehensive conceptual framework for the development and transfer of technology;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in liaison with the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to recommend and implement policy reforms that are needed to further the progress of science and technology in Africa, indicating the estimated costs of such an undertaking and the possible sources of funding;

4. Requests African Governments to continue to implement political and economic policy reforms aimed at creating a favourable domestic environment for enterprise and innovations without which rapid development is not possible;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that organizations of the United Nations system refine and adopt recommendations 1 through 5 contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning institution-building

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3/ A/50/125/Add.1-E/1995/19/Add.1, annex.

functions, sustainability, the programme approach, technical back-stopping and chief technical advisers without prejudice to the views thereon of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and taking into account General Assembly resolution 47/199 and the outcome of the 1995 triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General, within the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its upcoming mid-term global review in 1996, to:

(a) Initiate discussions at the highest level of the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning the possibility of increased United Nations system policy and programmatic collaboration in support of science and technology capacity-building in Africa, especially in key areas identified in section III of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(b) Consider the feasibility and the timeliness of establishing a few pilot science and technology strategic institutions of national or subregional scope;

(c) Undertake consultations within the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, on the possibility of convening a summit meeting on science and technology for development, with the substantive contribution of all the organizations of the United Nations system, to coincide with the Summit of the Organization of African Unity and with the participation of the donor community;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report, under the appropriate agenda item, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, on the implementation of the present resolution.